

Appl. No. 09/911,066
Amdt. Dated January 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 4, 2003

• • REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS • •

The present Supplemental Amendment corrects an inadvertent typographical error in line 6 of claim 22.

Applicants' Remarks/Arguments submitted on December 22, 2003 are incorporated herein.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the Remarks/Arguments submitted in the Amendment filed December 22, 2003.

It is submitted that the claims, as now amended are novel and neither anticipated nor obvious over the teachings of Maeda et al. and the outstanding rejections of the claims should hence be withdrawn.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of the claims and an early allowance of the claims is believed to be in order.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remains outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of

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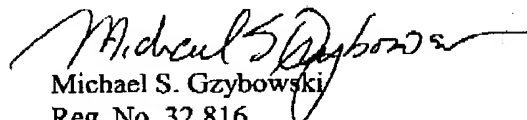
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time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,


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